What is claimed as the invention is:

1. In an external lift for a scooter wherein the lift includes a post adapted to be attached to a vehicle and a rotating platform attached to the post, the improvement comprising:

a load sensor actuated by rotation of the platform as a load is applied.

2. The lift as set forth in claim 1 and further including:

a lock mechanism for preventing the platform from rotating in a loaded and raised position.

3. The lift as set forth in claim 1 and further including:

a lock mechanism for preventing the platform from rotating in an unloaded and raised position.

4. The lift as set forth in claim 1 and further including:

a roller coupled to said platform and engaging a ramp on said post for supporting said platform while said platform is raised or lowered.

5. The lift as set forth in claim 1 and further including a hold down having two, laterally displaced feet.

6. In an external lift for a scooter wherein the lift includes a post adapted to be attached to a vehicle, a lift mechanism including a tube attached to said post and a sliding post fitting within said tube, and a rotating platform coupled to the sliding post by a hinge including a bar attached to said platform inside a horizontal tube coupled to said post, the improvement comprising:

a first plate coupled to said tube;

a second plate coupled to said bar;

a first spring attached to at least said first plate for separating the first plate from the second plate;

whereby said platform is supported in an approximately horizontal position by said spring and a load on said platform causes the separation of the first plate from the second plate to decrease; and

means for detecting a decrease in the separation of the first plate from the second plate.

7. An external scooter lift as set forth in claim 6 wherein said means includes:

a shaft rotatably mounted on said second plate;

a tab on said shaft extending away from the long dimension of the shaft;

an adjustable stop mounted on said first plate and positioned above said tab;

whereby said stop engages said tab as said first plate moves toward said second plate and causes said shaft to rotate.

8. An external scooter lift as set forth in claim 7 and further including:

a pin attached to said tube and extending downwardly;

a hole in said horizontal tube aligned with said pin; and

a bore in said bar that aligns with said hole when said platform is raised in a horizontal position;

whereby said pin engages said hole and said bore, thereby preventing said bar from rotating.

9. In an external lift for a scooter wherein the lift includes a post adapted to be attached to a vehicle, a lift mechanism including a tube attached to said post and a sliding post fitting within said tube, and a rotating platform coupled to the sliding post by a hinge including a bar attached to said platform inside a horizontal tube coupled to said post, the improvement comprising:

a bore in said bar and a pin attached to said post, wherein said pin engages said bore when said platform is in a raised position to prevent rotation of said platform.

10. The lift as set forth in claim 9 and further including a hold down having two, laterally displaced feet.